

Appl. No. : 10/811,406
Filed : March 26, 2004

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in claims 4 and 9 and to further clarify the subject matter recited therein. Support can be found in Figs. 1, 2, 5, 7-10, 12, 16, and 19, and paragraph [0054] on page 11, for example. Claim 15 has been amended in the same manner as in claim 1. Claims 10, 14, and 22 have been amended to correct informalities. Claims 26 and 27 have been added. Support can be found in paragraph [0054] on page 11, for example. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claim 14 has been objected to because of the informalities set forth in the Office action. Claim 14 has been amended to correct the informalities, thereby obviating this objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 10 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, with regard to the word “by” at the end of the claims. The word “by” has been deleted to clarify the subject matter, thereby obviating this rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 10, 15-17, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Young (4456152).

Claims 1 and 15 are independent and have been amended and included the subject matter recited in claims 9 and 21, respectively, which have not been rejected on this ground. Thus, at least for the above reason, claims 1 and 15 and their dependent claims cannot be anticipated by Young.

Claims 1-11, 15-17, 19-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cozzoli (2415419). Claims 1 and 15 are independent and have been amended. Claim 1 recites, among others:

a housing for the drive mechanism, wherein the housing is provided with a cylinder-supporting member having a gripper for detachably gripping the cylinder in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the cylinder,

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wherein the cylinder, the outflow valve mechanism, and the piston member are co-axially aligned, and an axis of the inflow valve mechanism is directed toward the lower end of the cylinder and acutely angled with respect to the axis of the cylinder.

Claim 15 recites limitations similar to the above.

Due to the gripper, the cylinder can be easily replaced with another cylinder and a fluid can be changed without cleaning the inside of the cylinder (a disposable cylinder can be used) (Paragraph [0054] on page 11, for example). Further, due to the co-axial alignment and the acutely angled alignment, discharging a fluid can easily and effectively be accomplished.

Cozzoli teaches none of the gripper and the co-axial alignment with the acutely angled alignment. Thus, each and every element of claims 1 and 15 cannot be found in Cozzoli, and thus, claims 1 and 15 and their dependent claims cannot be anticipated by Cozzoli.

Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 15-18, 21, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sweeny (5865226). As described above, claims 1 and 15 are independent and have been amended.

Sweeny teaches none of the gripper and the co-axial alignment with the acutely angled alignment. Thus, each and every element of claims 1 and 15 cannot be found in Sweeny, and thus, claims 1 and 15 and their dependent claims cannot be anticipated by Sweeny.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-14, 24, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Katsura (2001/0018930).

Claims 1 and 15 are independent and have been amended and included the subject matter recited in claims 9 and 21, respectively, which have not been rejected on this ground. Thus, at least for the above reason, claims 1 and 15 and their dependent claims cannot be obvious over Young and Katsura.

Claims 12-14, 24, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cozzoli in view of Katsura.

Claims 1 and 15 are independent and have been amended and included the subject matter recited in claims 9 and 21, respectively, which have not been rejected on this ground. Thus, at least for

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the above reason, claims 1 and 15 and their dependent claims cannot be obvious over Cozzoli and Katsura.

Claims 12-14, 24, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sweeny in view of Katsura.

Claims 1 and 15 are independent and have been amended and included the subject matter recited in claims 9 and 21, respectively, which have not been rejected on this ground. Thus, at least for the above reason, claims 1 and 15 and their dependent claims cannot be obvious over Sweeny and Katsura.

New claims

Claims 26 and 27 have been added. These claims further recite the multiple convex portions for preventing the cylinder from slipping from the gripper. This feature is not taught by any of the prior art references.

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CONCLUSION

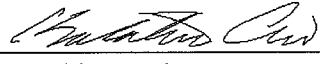
In light of the Applicant's amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. The grounds for rejection which are not discussed here are moot. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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